Coastal SEZ in Karnataka

2360. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to establish Coastal SEZ in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when the proposal was sent; and

(c) what is the status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Proposal to set up a Special Economic Zone at Baikampady in coastal Karnataka, promoted by Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry was received through Government of Karnataka in June, 2004.

(c) The proposal was given in principal approval on 8.8.2003. The project is at a preliminary stage of implementation.

Trade and economic framework between India and Australia

2361. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Australia propose to start work on a trade and economic framework agreement to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries;

(b) whether a draft blue print has been prepared in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Trade and Economic Framework (TEF) with Australia is being negotiated.

(c) The TEF would facilitate trade and investment on a balanced and comprehensive basis promoting strategic cooperation in key sectors such as energy, mining infrastructure, tourism, services, etc.